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Steel rolling mill

* 188 *Q.*—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to set up a steel rolling mill in the State;

(*b*) if so, whether it will be in the public or private sector;

(*c*) whether, and, if so, to what extent the Central Government will give assistance; and

(*d*) the location of the mill?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) & (*b*) Two applications received from private firms have been recommended to the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for grant of licences for seeting up of re-rolling mills. Details about these private firms cannot be furnished.

The Government have also a proposal to set up a steel re-rolling mill in this State in the public sector during the Third Five-Year Plan.

(*c*) The expenditure in respect of the scheme for the establishment of a steel rolling mill in the public sector will be met entirely from out of State Funds.

(*d*) The location of the mill has not yet been decided.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : தனியார் துறையில் இயங்க இருக்கும் ஆலைகளுக்கு ராஜ்ய சர்க்கார் அல்லது மத்திய சர்க்கார் பொருள் உதவி செய்வதாக இருக்கிறதா ? அப்படியானால் எவ்வளவு ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : விரும்பி சர்க்காரை அணுகினால் அதற்கு வேண்டிய ஆலோசனைகள் அவர்களுக்குக் கூறப்படும்.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : தொழிற்சாலைகள் எல்லாம் பொதுவாக நகர்ப்புறங்களில் அமைவதால் அங்கு ஜன நெருக்கம் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. அவைகளை நாட்டுப்புறங்களில் அமையச் செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : வசதி இருக்கிற இடங்களில்தான் ஆலைகள் அமைக்க முடியும். நாட்டுப்புறங்கள் என்பதற்காக ஆலைகளை அங்கு அமைத்துவிட முடியாது.

State Transport buses

* 189 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to post two conductors in each of the State Transport buses, Madras; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, may I know whether the Government examined this issue and came to some decision either in the matter of finance or other thing, or they felt that the issue should not be considered?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I remember to have stated on an earlier occasion that we have decided to try the alternative method of appointing more stand conductors instead of appointing two conductors in one bus.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, that one of the leading papers in the City—the Hindu or the Mail—has made an important suggestion that in order to solve many of the problems it is better to have more than one conductor in the bus?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We do not agree.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, in how many places are these standing conductors posted, and are they posted only during peak hours?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : In forty places.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, is there a proposal to issue tickets at every stop and also collect the tickets from the passengers when they get down te bus?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No, Sir, it is not possible. In fact only if they accept my alternate suggestion to have longer fare stages it would be possible to avoid delay in the issue of tickets. The fare stages are so short that within two minutes one has to issue about 40 or 50 tickets, and there is delay.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that even in a place like Broadway, where there may be a standing conductor, the bus comes, the passengers get in, and it starts off, and the standing conductor is standing all the while?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I think he is performing his duty properly if he does not sit. (Laughter).

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware that he has no time to issue tickets at the bus stop? The bus comes and starts with a load of passengers and this leads to all difficulties.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The hon. Member is not aware of the manner in which these tickets are issued. Long before the bus comes when people start coming, the stand conductor issues the tickets.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, will the Government be pleased to print the tickets in such a way so that a layman can understand wherefrom he is going and to which place he is going?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If it is a suggestion, it will be forwarded to the Transport Advisory Committee. If it is asking for information, I say, ' No '.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Government post during peak hours two conductors in the bus even though there are stand conductors in certain places and not at all places?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I think the hon. Member is a member of the Transport Advisory Committee. He may forward this suggestion to that committee.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know, Sir, what the seating capacity of the bus is, and also how many standing passengers are allowed on an average during peak hours?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : There are different types of buses. Ordinarily there are forty-four seats. The number of people who may be allowed as standing passengers will be 15 to 20.

Provident Fund Scheme

* 190 Q.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the peons in Aided Schools are eligible to join the Provident Fund Scheme?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : May I know, Sir, when this was introduced?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : This is in existence for a very long time, and I tried to verify whether anybody had joined the Provident Fund Scheme. There are cases where the peons had joined the Provident Fund Scheme.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, will this be extended to permanent watchmen who serve more or less like peons?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No, Sir. The persons, expenditure on whom is taken into account for grant purposes, are allowed to contribute.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, is there any proposal, even though the persons had not put in ten years' service, to give them permission to contribute?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, the rules will be followed. I do not think there is any case for relaxing the rules.